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NEWS RELEASE

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Financial assistance available for Library Support Staff Certification

BOISE, ID – The Idaho Commission for Libraries is again offering financial assistance to library support staff applying for the American Library Association’s (ALA) Library Support Staff Certification (LSSC) Program. The LSSC Program offers library employees the opportunity to increase their skills in areas such as technology, communication, and the foundations of librarianship. To attain certification, support staff must achieve six of ten competency sets, either through development of an online portfolio or taking approved courses.

“LSSC is pleased that the Idaho Commission for Libraries is once again participating in the Registration Assistance Awards,” said Nancy Bolt, Co-Project Director of LSSC. “The Commission is thankful for the LSSC Program and the professional development opportunity it provides for library support staff members, who play a critical role in the delivery of quality library service,” State Librarian Ann Joslin said. “This certification will benefit both library support staff and the customers they serve.”

The Commission will offer up to 10 Registration Assistance Awards this spring. The Awards are for \$175, one-half of the LSSC registration/application fee. Successful award recipients will pay the remainder of the registration fee with their own funds or funds obtained from other sources. Support staff members from all types of libraries are invited to apply. Any library support staff is eligible to apply for candidacy in LSSC who has:

- a minimum of a high school degree or its equivalency and
- worked or volunteered in any type of library for a minimum of 1 year (1820 hours) within the last 5 years.

The application deadline is May 15, 2012. Award recipients will be announced in early June. An application form and more information about the Registration Assistance Awards are available from the Idaho Commission for Libraries website at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/lssc>. Please contact Shirley Biladeau at shirley.biladeau@libraries.idaho.gov with questions.

The LSSC Program is funded by a grant to ALA from the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services and managed by the ALA-Allied Professional Association. Additional information on LSSC is available on the LSSC website: www.ala-apa.org/lssc.

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The Idaho Commission for Libraries (ICfL) assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele. To learn more about ICfL, visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/>.